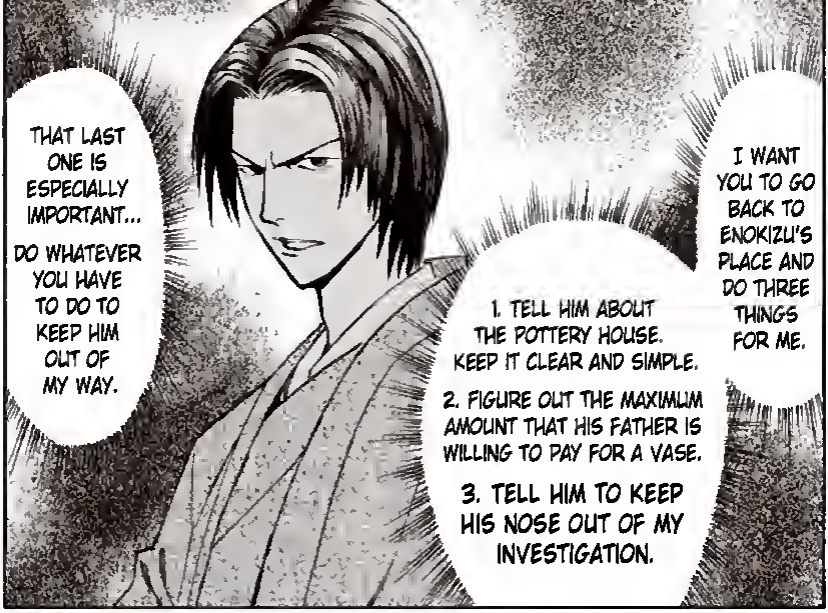
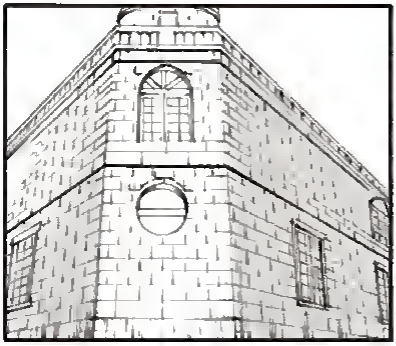
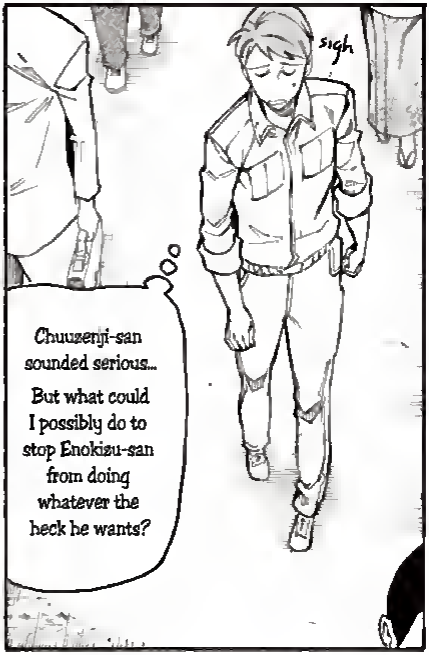
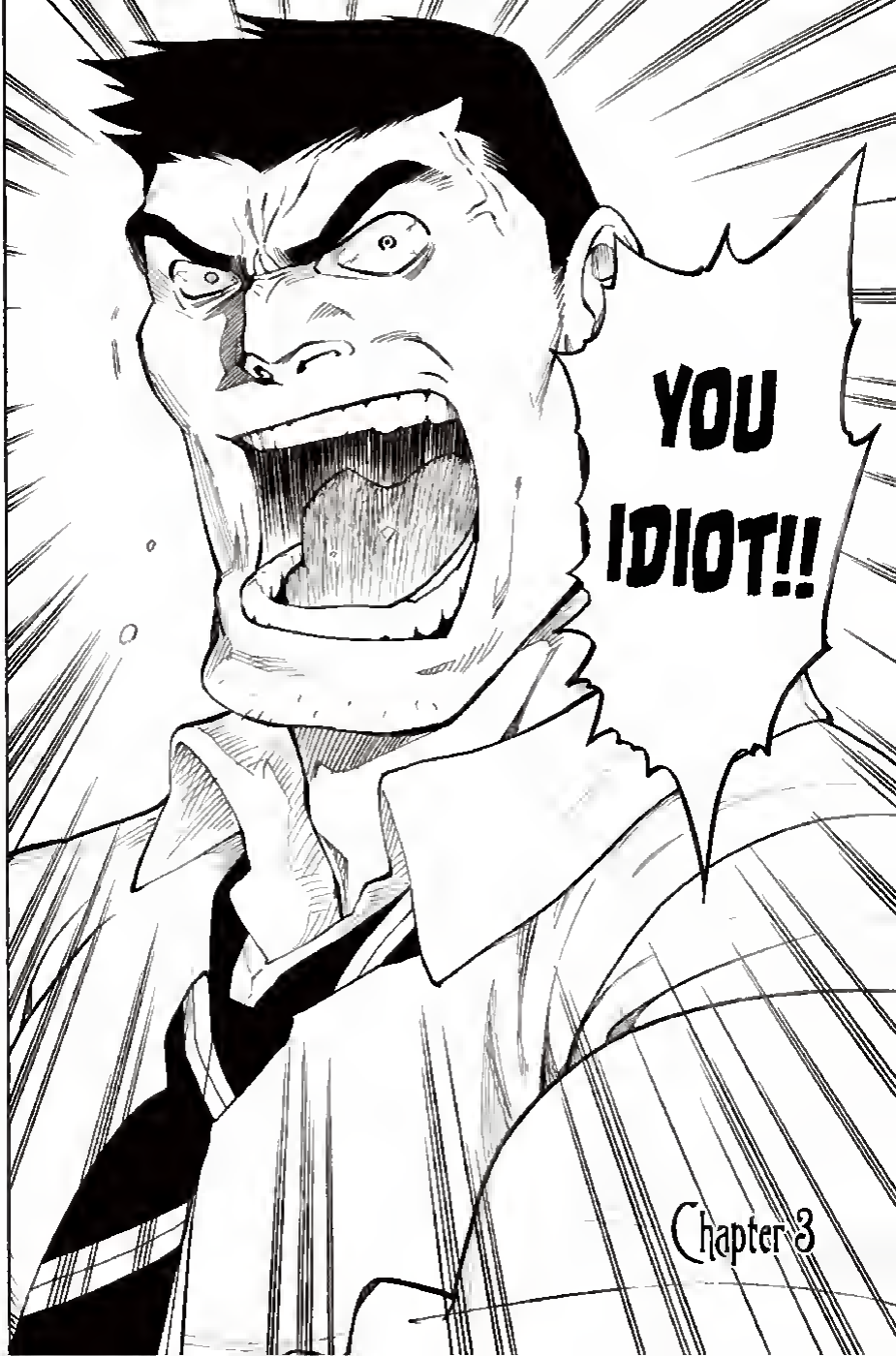

I WANT YOU TO GO BACK TO ENOKIZU'S PLACE AND DO THREE THINGS FOR ME.
1. TELL HIM ABOUT THE POTTERY HOUSE. KEEP IT CLEAR AND SIMPLE.
2. FIGURE OUT THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT THAT HIS FATHER IS WILLING TO PAY FOR A VASE.
3. TELL HIM TO KEEP HIS NOSE OUT OF MY INVESTIGATION.
THAT LAST ONE IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT...
DO WHATEVER YOU HAVE TO DO TO KEEP HIM OUT OF MY WAY.

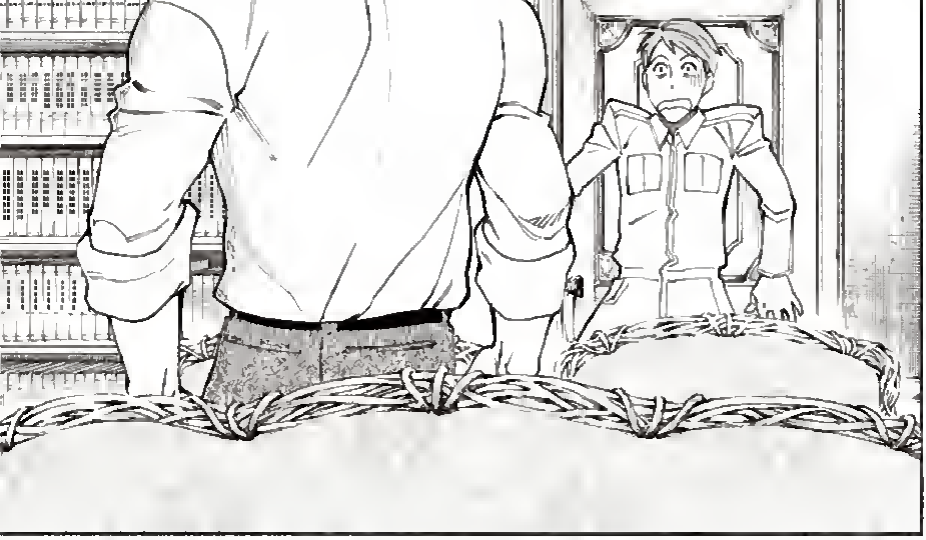



sigh
Chuuzenji-san sounded serious...
But what could I possibly do to stop Enokizu-san from doing whatever the heck he wants?

CREAK

Chapter 3


YOU IDIOT!!
Chapter 3



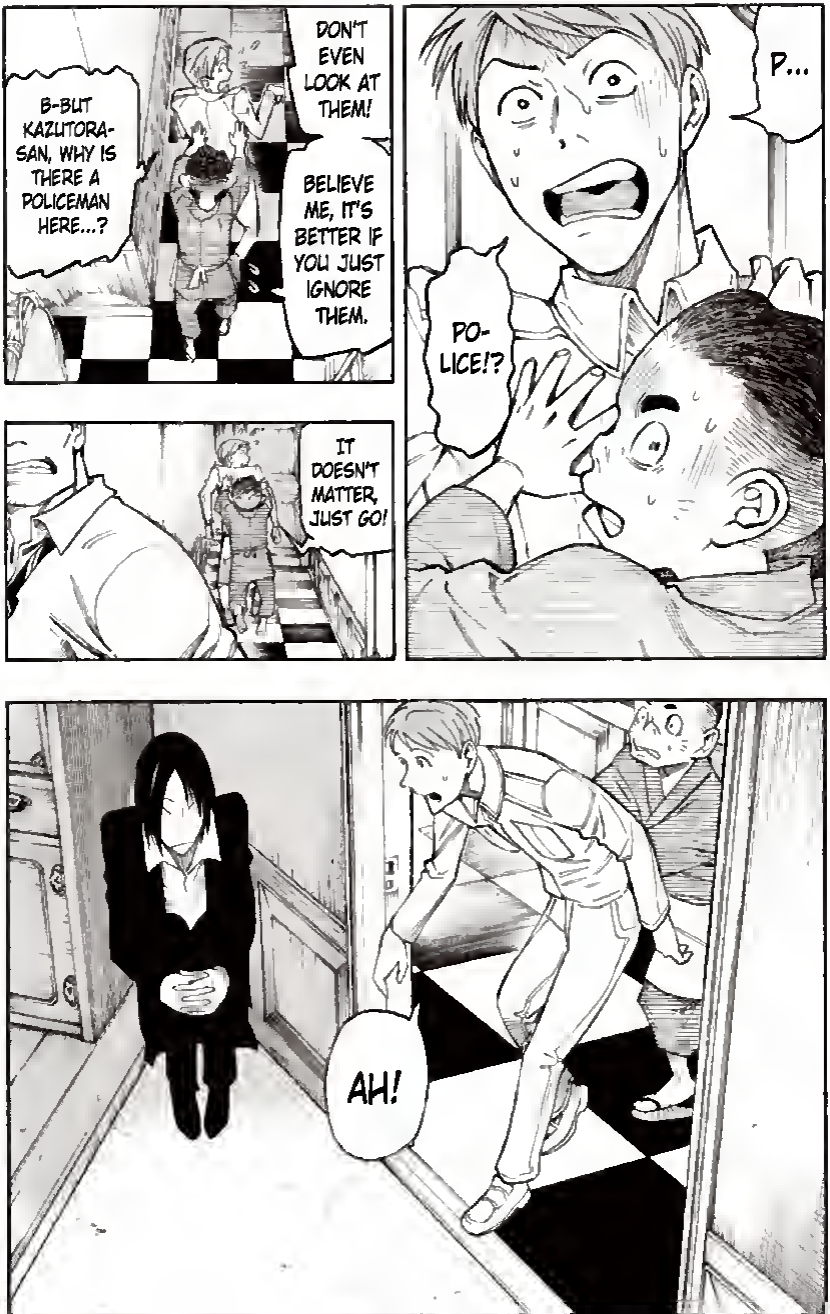
PUFF

K-KAZU-TORA-SAN!?
IS HE A YAKU-ZA!?
NOW'S NOT A GOOD TIME!

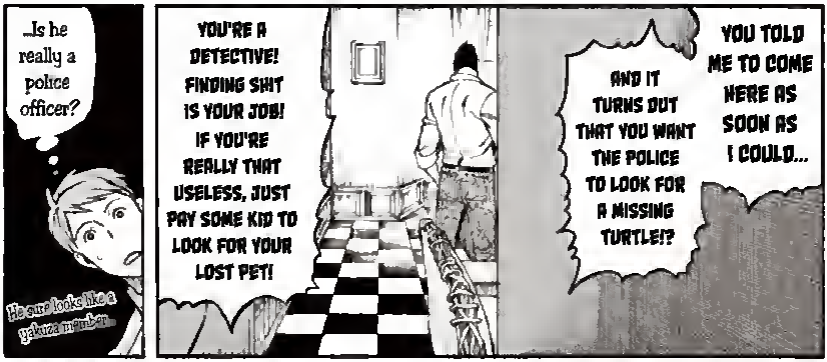
YOU'VE GOT A HOLE IN YOUR HEAD SO BIG THAT I COULD RUN A STRING THROUGH YOU AND WEAR YOU AS A NECKLACE!
ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME, YOU PALE FREAK OF NATURE?
KICK

AND WHAT ABOUT THAT INCOMPETENT ORGANIZATION TO WHICH YOU BELONG?
IT'S A WASTE OF MY TAX DOLLARS, IF YOU ASK ME.
ALL I HEAR IS QUACKING...
ARE YOU A DUCK?
WHY SHOULD I LISTEN TO A MAN WHO'S AS WIDE AS HE IS TALL?

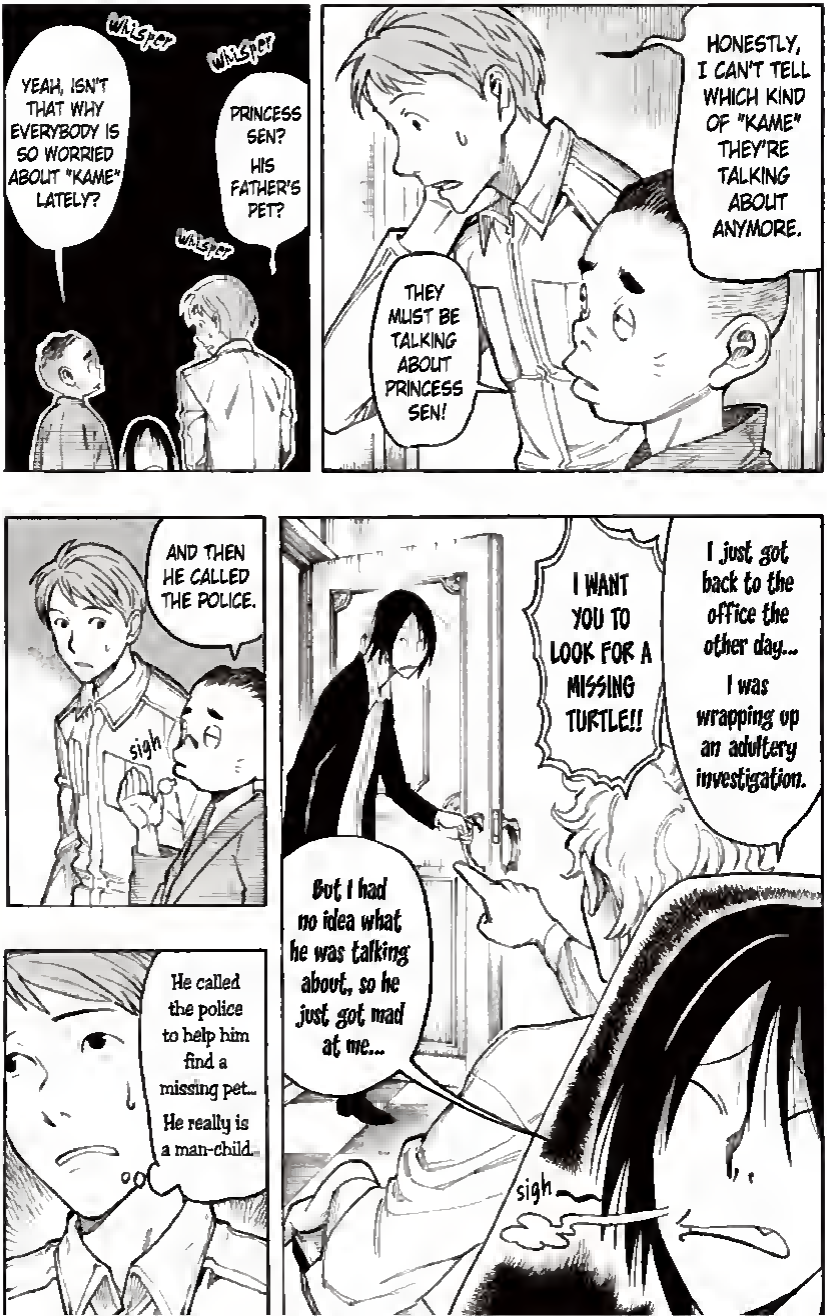
GROW UP, YOU USELESS PIECE OF SHIT!!
I'M A COP - I DON'T HAVE TIME TO BABYSIT YOUR LAZY ASS!
YOU'RE A DISGRACE TO THE COUNTRY!
YOU'RE AN OVER-GROWN MAN-CHILD!


B-BUT KAZUTORA-SAN, WHY IS THERE A POLICEMAN HERE...?
DON'T EVEN LOOK AT THEM!
BELIEVE ME, IT'S BETTER IF YOU JUST IGNORE THEM.
IT DOESN'T MATTER, JUST GO!
P...
PO-LICE!?
AH!

NOTE In case you forgot, "turtle" and "vase" are both "kame" in Japanese.


...Is he really a police officer?
He sure looks like a yakuza member...
YOU'RE A DETECTIVE! FINDING SHIT IS YOUR JOB! IF YOU'RE REALLY THAT USELESS, JUST PAY SOME KID TO LOOK FOR YOUR LOST PET!
AND IT TURNS OUT THAT YOU WANT THE POLICE TO LOOK FOR A MISSING TURTLE!?
YOU TOLD ME TO COME HERE AS SOON AS I COULD...

I can't take any more.
Oh man, I had enough of "pots" after the last case!
IF IT WERE THAT EASY, I WOULD HAVE ALREADY FOUND IT!
IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S EASY TO FIND THESE THINGS, OKAY?
YOU'RE THE USELESS ONE!


WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER
YEAH, ISN'T THAT WHY EVERYBODY IS SO WORRIED ABOUT "KAME" LATELY?
PRINCESS SEN?
HIS FATHER'S PET?
HONESTLY, I CAN'T TELL WHICH KIND OF "KAME" THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT ANYMORE.
THEY MUST BE TALKING ABOUT PRINCESS SEN!
AND THEN HE CALLED THE POLICE.
sigh
He called the police to help him find a missing pet...
He really is a man-child.
I just got back to the office the other day...
I was wrapping up an adultery investigation.
I WANT YOU TO LOOK FOR A MISSING TURTLE!!
But I had no idea what he was talking about, so he just got mad at me...
sigh

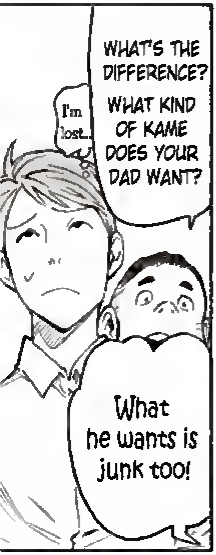
HEY, YOU'RE NEW, RIGHT?
WHAT ARE YOU IDIOTS DOING OVER THERE?
Hey, I take my job seriously!
HUH?
OFFICER KIBA AND OUR BOSS ARE CHILDHOOD FRIENDS...
BUT EVERY TIME THEY GET TOGETHER, THEY JUST FIGHT AND BREAK SHIT
MASUDA-KUN, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE OUT FINDING THAT TURTLE.
EH!?
OH... I... UM...
I told you about him, didn't I?
He's the guy with the weird name who helped out on one of my cases.
YOU NEVER MENTIONED THAT...
I'M KIBA.
I'M A POLICE DETECTIVE IN THE AZABU PRECINCT.
YOU DON'T LOOK MUCH LIKE A PRIVATE EYE...
LET ME GIVE YOU A WORD OF WARNING: IF YOU HANG AROUND WITH THIS GUY, HE'LL ROT YOUR BRAIN.
Chuuzenji-san said the same thing...
OH... THANKS...

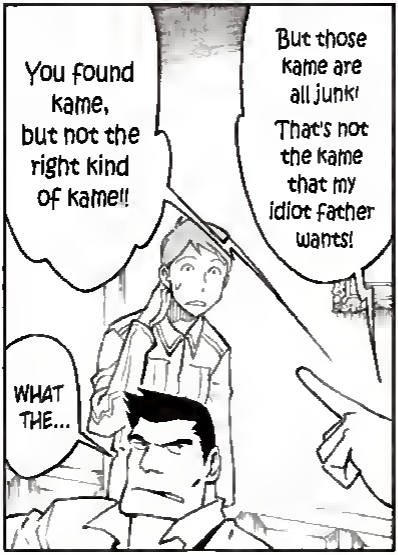
Kame kame kame!!
You found kame!

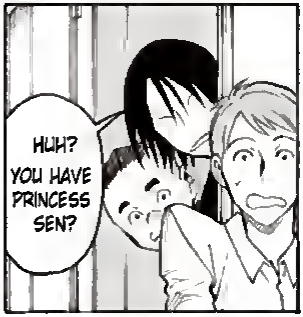
ANYWAY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, GOSHO-GAWARA-KUN?!

UM... WELL...
That's not my name...

!


WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?
WHAT KIND OF KAME DOES YOUR DAD WANT?
I'm lost...
What he wants is junk too!

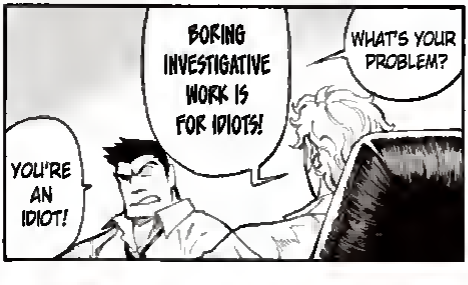

You found kame, but not the right kind of kame!!
But those kame are all junk!
That's not the kame that my idiot father wants!
WHAT THE...


HUH? YOU HAVE PRINCESS SEN?

That's right... Enokizu-san can see people's memories...

Kiba-san, I need your help!
Anyway,
FLOP
She's a bitey little thing, too.
She must have ran away when they dumped the bath water.
Princess Sen has escaped! She's his father's beloved pet turtle.
That's exactly right!
YOUR FATHER'S DUMB PET IS GOING TO END UP IN TURTLE SOUP IN SOME AKASAKA RESTAURANT, THEN!
DON'T WASTE MY TIME!
SHE ESCAPED IN AZABU, AND THAT'S YOUR JURISDICTION!
HOW DOES A TURTLE "RUN AWAY!?" THAT'S CRAZY.
HUFF
CRAZY RUNS IN YOUR FAMILY, REIJIROU! WHO CALLS THE POLICE ABOUT A LOST PET!?
MY FATHER IS CRAZY!

I asked around, and Princess Sen was last seen at a restaurant called Umenoya.
The waitress saw her.

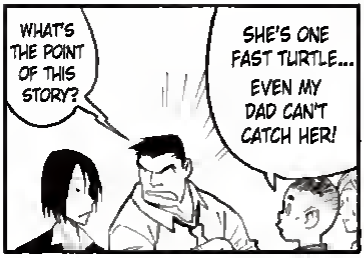

WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?
BORING INVESTIGATIVE WORK IS FOR IDIOTS!
YOU'RE AN IDIOT!

WHO CARES!?
THAT'S ACTUALLY PRETTY GOOD DETECTIVE WORK.

Well, the waitress said...

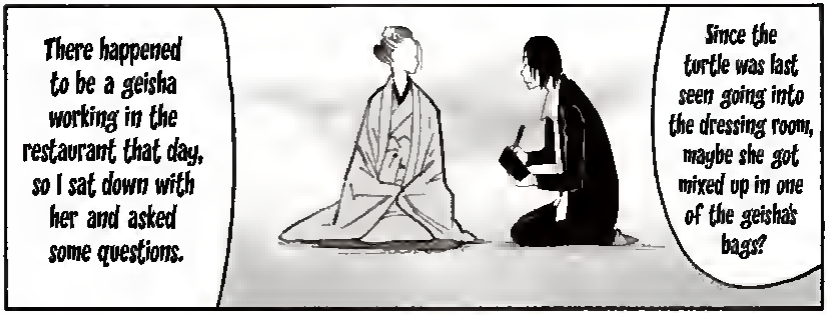
SO MASUDA, WHAT DID YOU FIND OUT?

I WAS REALLY SURPRISED!
I WAS CARRYING FOOD INTO THE DINING ROOM, AND I SAW A LITTLE TURTLE RIGHT BY THE FRONT DESK!
IT WAS JUST CRAWLING ALONG.
I HURRIED TO DELIVER THE FOOD,
BUT BY THE TIME I GOT BACK...
!!


WHAT'S THE POINT OF THIS STORY?
SHE'S ONE FAST TURTLE... EVEN MY DAD CAN'T CATCH HER!

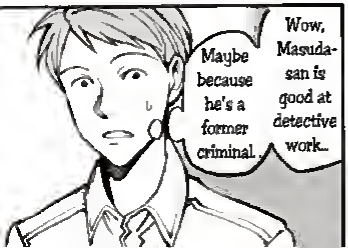
She searched everywhere for the turtle, even in the geishas' dressing room.
But no luck.

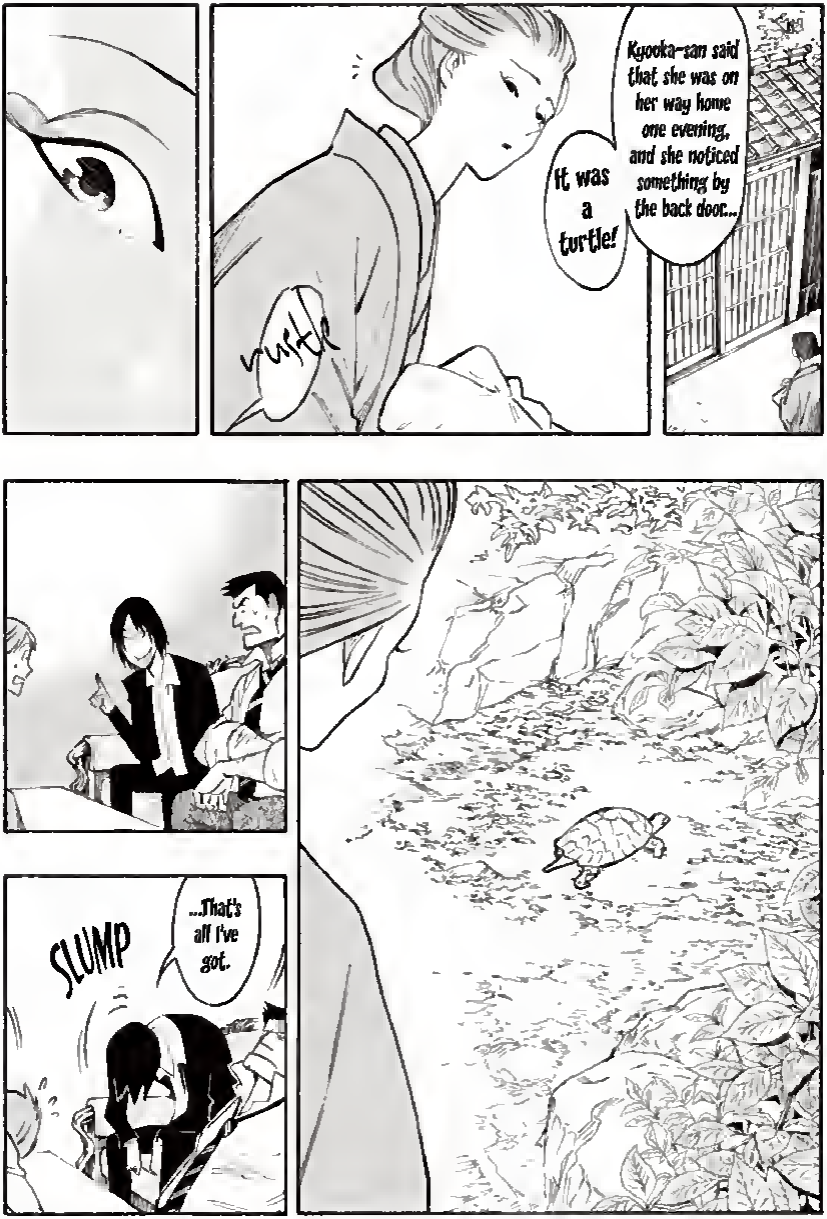
I'm getting there!


There happened to be a geisha working in the restaurant that day, so I sat down with her and asked some questions.
Since the turtle was last seen going into the dressing room, maybe she got mixed up in one of the geishas' bags?

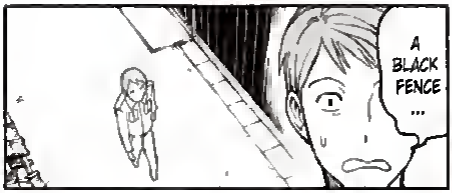
OOH ...

Her name was Kyouka, and she'd been working there that day.

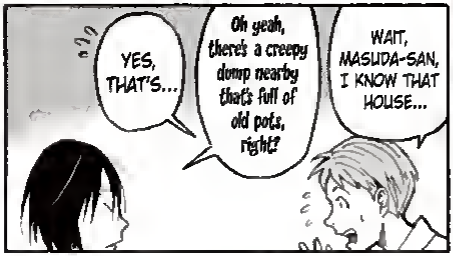

Maybe because he's a former criminal...
Wow, Masuda-san is good at detective work...


Kyooka-san said that she was on her way home one evening, and she noticed something by the back door...
It was a turtle!
rustle
...That's all I've got.
SLUMP

In Akasaka 1-chome.
HUH?
WHERE DID THAT GEISHA LIVE?
I looked all around the house, but I couldn't find her.
No luck...
R-RYOU-UNDOU!?
HUH!?
WAIT, HER NAME WAS KYOUKA? SHE'S THE MISTRESS OF THE OWNER OF RYOUUNDOU ANTIQUES...
Akasaka 1-chome, Yamada Residence
AKASAKA 1-CHOME !?
THE OWNER IS OBSESSED WITH THAT GEISHA, KYOUKA...
HE EVEN BOUGHT HER A FANCY HOUSE IN AKASAKA LAST YEAR.
I'VE GOT A FEELING THAT THERE'S SOMETHING SHADY GOING ON, BUT THE INVESTIGATION IS ONGOING.
YEAH, RYOUUNDOU IS AN ANTIQUES SHOP THAT SPECIALIZES IN TEA CEREMONY SUPPLIES.
THEY'RE UNDER INVESTIGATION BY THE AZABU POLICE.
WE SUSPECT THAT THEY'VE BEEN SELLING COUNTERFIETS AND GIVING FALSE APPRAISALS...
NO HARD EVIDENCE YET, THOUGH.


A BLACK FENCE ...

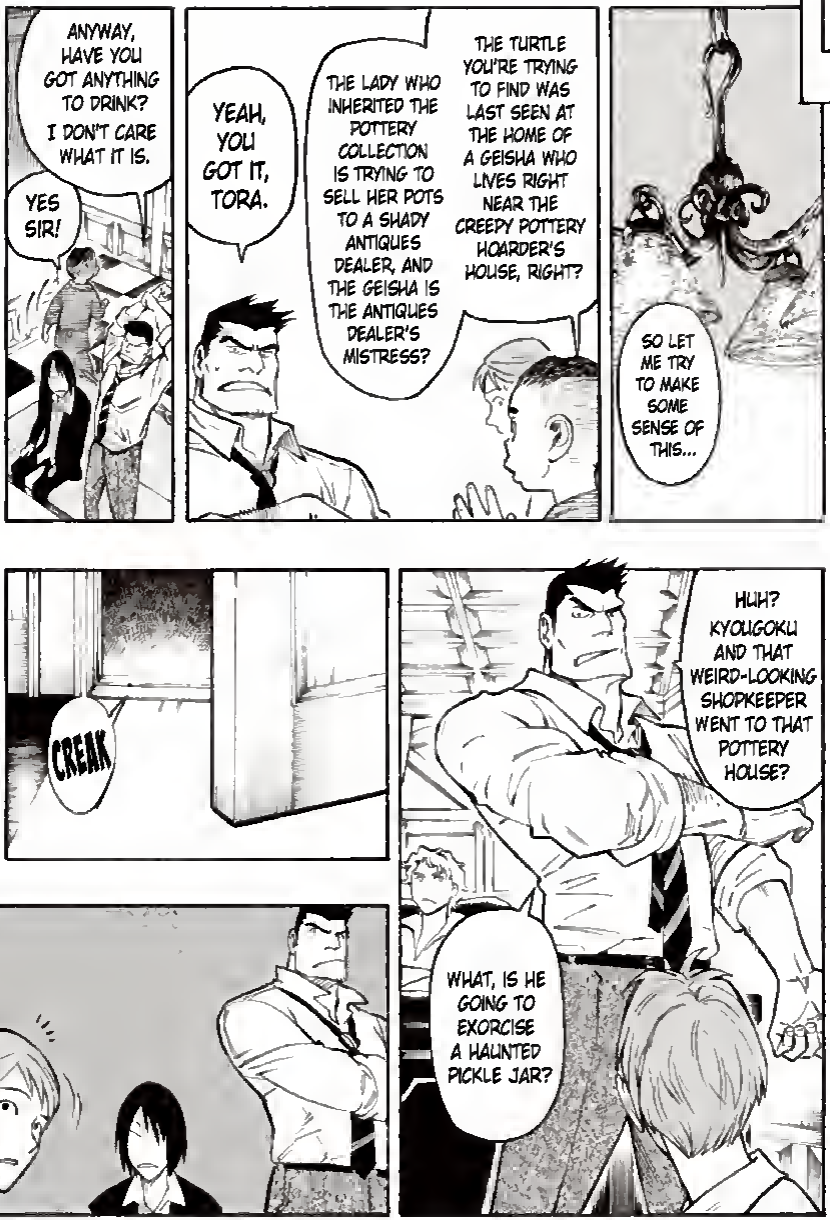
It did look like the sort of place where a rich guy would keep his mistress...
There's a tall black fence...


YES, THAT'S...
Oh yeah, there's a creepy dump nearby that's full of old pots, right?
WAIT, MASUDA-SAN, I KNOW THAT HOUSE...

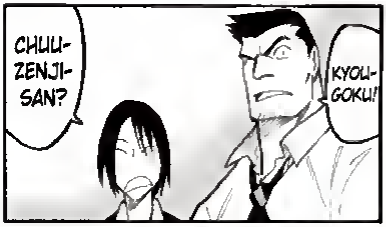
I CAN NEVER FOLLOW HIS LOGIC...
OI, WHAT THE FUCK ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

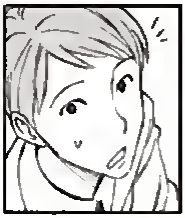
SHOCK
REALLY !?

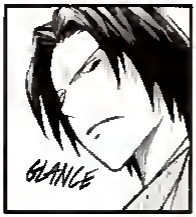
That's the place, Dangou-zaka-kun!!
That's where we'll find the kame!!

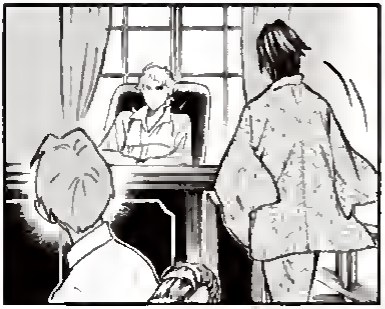

ANYWAY, HAVE YOU GOT ANYTHING TO DRINK? I DON'T CARE WHAT IT IS.
YES SIR!
YEAH, YOU GOT IT, TORA.
THE LADY WHO INHERITED THE POTTERY COLLECTION IS TRYING TO SELL HER POTS TO A SHADY ANTIQUES DEALER, AND THE GEISHA IS THE ANTIQUES DEALER'S MISTRESS?
THE TURTLE YOU'RE TRYING TO FIND WAS LAST SEEN AT THE HOME OF A GEISHA WHO LIVES RIGHT NEAR THE CREEPY POTTERY HOARDER'S HOUSE, RIGHT?
SO LET ME TRY TO MAKE SOME SENSE OF THIS...
CREAK
HUH? KYOUGOKU AND THAT WEIRD-LOOKING SHOPKEEPER WENT TO THAT POTTERY HOUSE?
WHAT, IS HE GOING TO EXORCISE A HAUNTED PICKLE JAR?

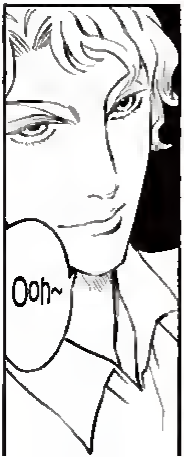
NOTE The Japanese word for an "object haunted by spirits" is "tsukimono," but "tsukemono" is the word for "pickle." So Detective Kiba is making a little pun. This author is *really* fond of puns.

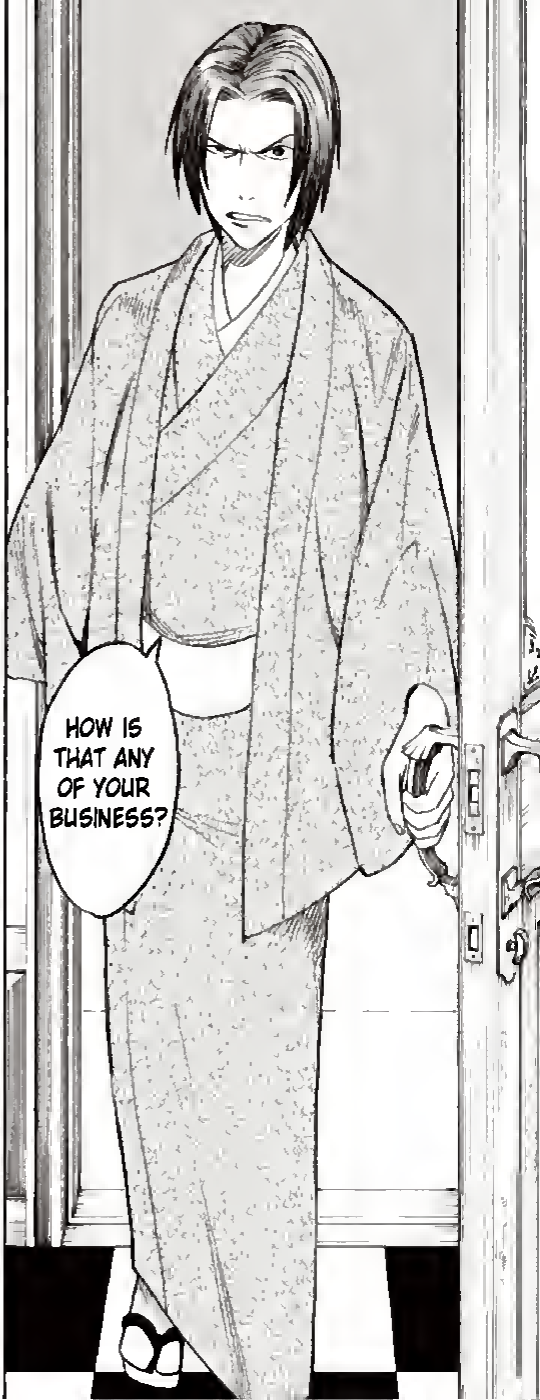

CHUU-ZENJI-SAN?
KYOU-GOKU!



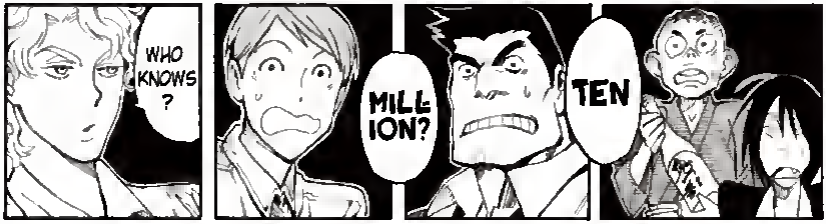

GLANCE

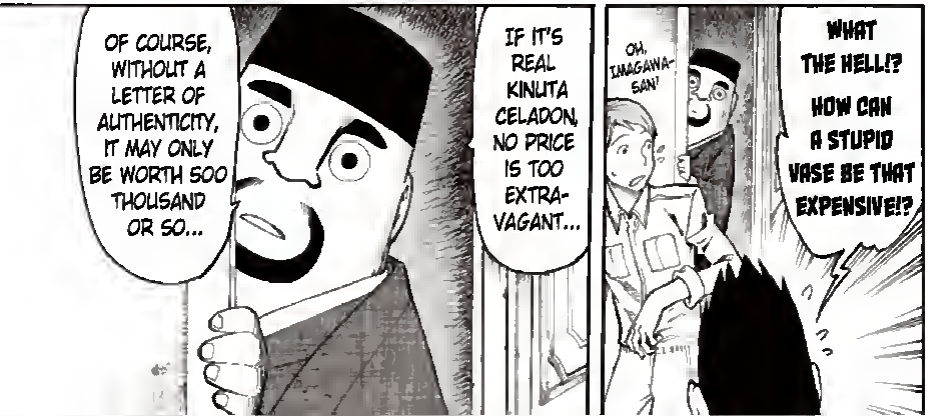



Ooh~


HOW IS THAT ANY OF YOUR BUSINESS?

NOTE This is probably around $1-2 million in 2016 US dollars.




OF COURSE, WITHOUT A LETTER OF AUTHENTICITY, IT MAY ONLY BE WORTH 500 THOUSAND OR SO...
IF IT'S REAL KINUTA CELADON, NO PRICE IS TOO EXTRA-VAGANT...
OH, IMAGANA-SAN!
WHAT THE HELL!?
HOW CAN A STUPID VASE BE THAT EXPENSIVE!?

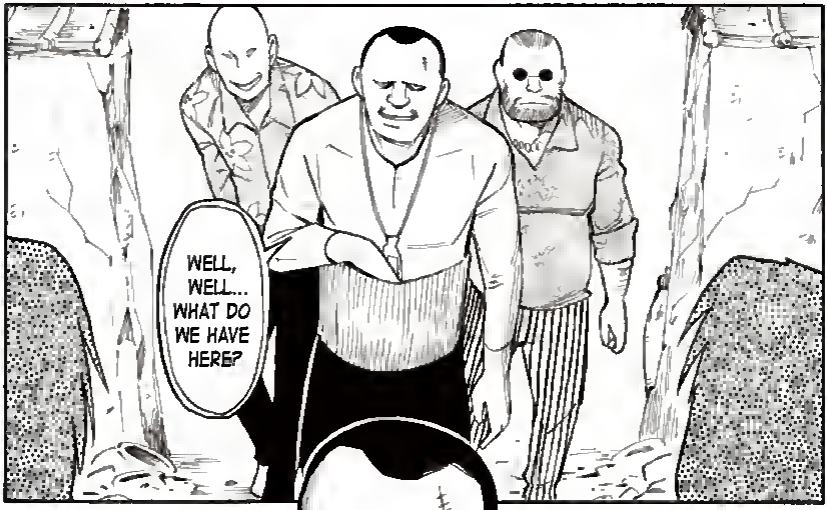
10 MILLION YEN...
IS THE AMOUNT OF DEBT OWED BY THE YAMADA FAMILY.
SO I WANT YOU TO SPEAK TO YOUR FATHER, ENO-SAN.
THERE'S NOT MUCH TIME, SO MAKE IT QUICK.
Hm.

AS IMAGAWA-KUN AND I WERE FINISHING UP OUR CONVERSATION WITH YAMADA SUE-SAN, A MAN SUDDENLY ARRIVED...
HIS NAME WAS KIHARA SHOUZOU.
THE ILLEGITIMATE SON!?
AS HE AND SUE-SAN WERE BICKERING OVER THE FAMILY TREASURE, ANOTHER MAN APPEARED...
THIS TIME, IT WAS A REPRESENTATIVE FROM MINEGISHI FINANCE, COMING TO COLLECT THE YAMADA FAMILY'S DEBTS.
Not much time...?
CHUUZENJI-SAN...
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN TO YAMADA-SAN?

CALM DOWN, YOU TWO!

I'M SORRY, BUT...
THAT VASE BELONGS TO ME!
YOU'D BETTER PAY UP, OR ELSE!

!


WELL, WELL... WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE?

AND THEN, YAKUZA FROM THE KANTO DAIKOKU GANG SHOWED UP...
YOU KNOW WHAT WE WANT, RIGHT?
SO ARE YOU GONNA HAND IT OVER...
OR ARE WE GONNA HAVE TO TAKE IT?

SHOUZOU-SAN IS A BUDDY OF OURS, SO HE CAN KEEP HIS OLD VASE,
AND SELL IT FOR WHATEVER IT'S WORTH.
SO ANYWAY, WHO THE HELL ARE THESE PEOPLE?
ONCE WE PAY OFF MINEGISHI-SAN, ALL OF THIS IS OURS.
WE'RE BUYING YOUR DEBT FROM MINEGISHI FINANCE, SO WE ALREADY OWN YOUR HOUSE, YOUR LAND, YOUR POTTERY COLLECTION, AND ANY CASH YOU HAVE.
ALTOGETHER, IT'S WORTH ABOUT TEN MILLION.
WELL TOO FUCKING BAD.
I'M NOT LETTING ANYBODY GET A CUT OF MY PROFITS.
SHOUZOU-SAN HAS A RIGHT TO HIS FAMILY HEIRLOOM, BUT EVERYTHING ELSE IS MINE!
I'M NOT GIVING ANY-THING TO TRASH LIKE YOU.
I WANT MY TEN MILLION YEN!
Um... we're just looking for a vase...
EH!?

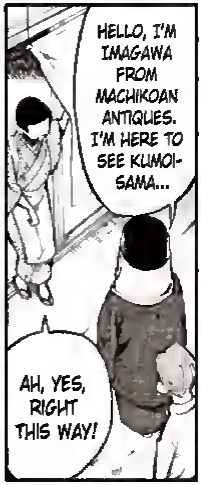
WHAT ABOUT THIS KIHARA SHOUZOU?
I'VE HEARD OF HIM...
HE'S A SMUGGLER WHO GOES BY THE ALIAS "YAMIMASA."
THE YAKUZA CAN MAKE EASY MONEY WITH BLACK MARKET RICE THESE DAYS.
THIS AREA IS THE DAIKOKU GANG'S TURF, BUT I WASN'T AWARE OF THEM BEING IN THE ANTIQUES BUSINESS.
IT'S SUSPICIOUS.
No way! Even the yakuza don't have money like that!
10 MILLON YEN...
I know, right?
IT DOES SOUND FISHY...
YEP. OUTSIDE MY JURISDICTION.
WHAT ABOUT MINEGISHI FINANCE?
THEY'RE BASED IN KOUJIMACHI, RIGHT?
THE DAIKOKU GANG IS A RELATIVELY SMALL OPERATION, SO WHERE COULD THEY HAVE GOTTEN THAT KIND OF MONEY?
THEY'RE THOWING AROUND MILLIONS OF YEN LIKE IT'S NOTHING!
HM.
I SEE...

NOTE Japan's food production and distribution infrastructure was so damaged after WWII that rice was rationed until the early 1950s. The government bought rice from farmers at a cheap rate and distributed it to city dwellers to prevent starvation. However, this rationed rice was very low quality. Wealthy people were willing to pay more for better food, so the yakuza managed a profitable trade in black market rice.

IT SOUNDS LIKE THEY'RE TRYING TO PULL SOME KIND OF SCAM AT SUE-SAN'S EXPENSE.
NOW THAT WE KNOW THAT THE YAKUZA ARE INVOLVED, I THINK IT'S BEST THAT WE GIVE UP ON FINDING THE KINUTA CELADON.
SL
AM
QUIET, YOU FOOL!!
THERE ARE TOO MANY UNANSWERED QUESTIONS...
BUT I SUPPOSE I SHOULD AT LEAST TAKE CARE OF THE EXORCISM BEFORE THE YAKUZA GET THEIR HANDS ON THAT VASE.

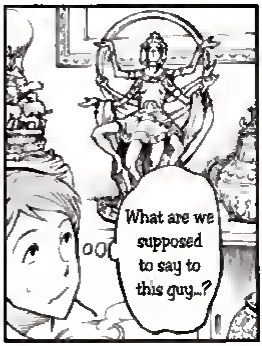
IF YOU WANT TO EXORCISE SOMETHING, THEN GET RID OF YAKUZA, OR CROOKED BUSINESSMEN, OR DEBT COLLECTORS!
EXORCISMS ARE YOUR JOB, YOU STUPID BOOK HOARDER!!
.....
SO WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO, REIJIROU?
I'M GOING TO KICK SOME ASS!
IT'S ENOKIZU SPECIAL PUNISHMENT TIME!!
SINCE WHEN IS THAT A THING...?

NOTE The signs say "Ryouundou." Mamiana is a wealthy district of Tokyo.



HOW'S BUSINESS, IMAGAWA?

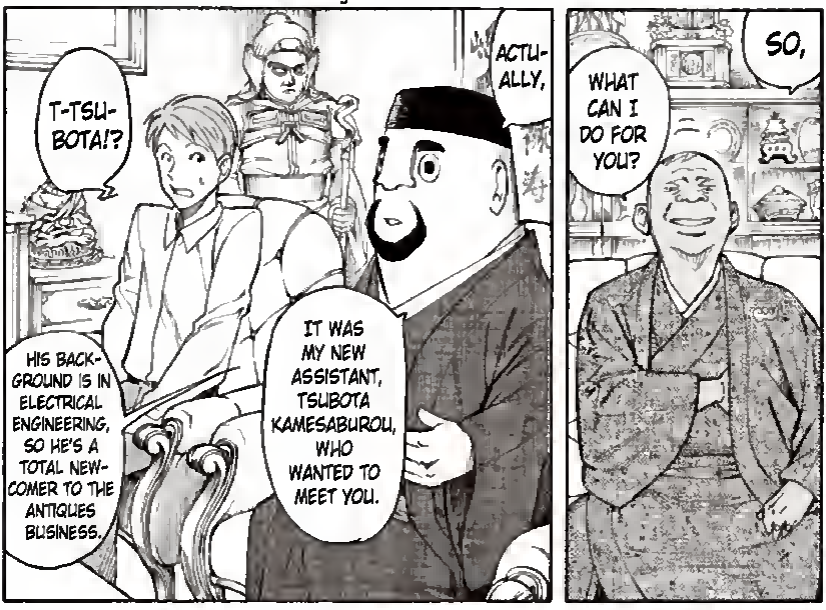
CREAK
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING!

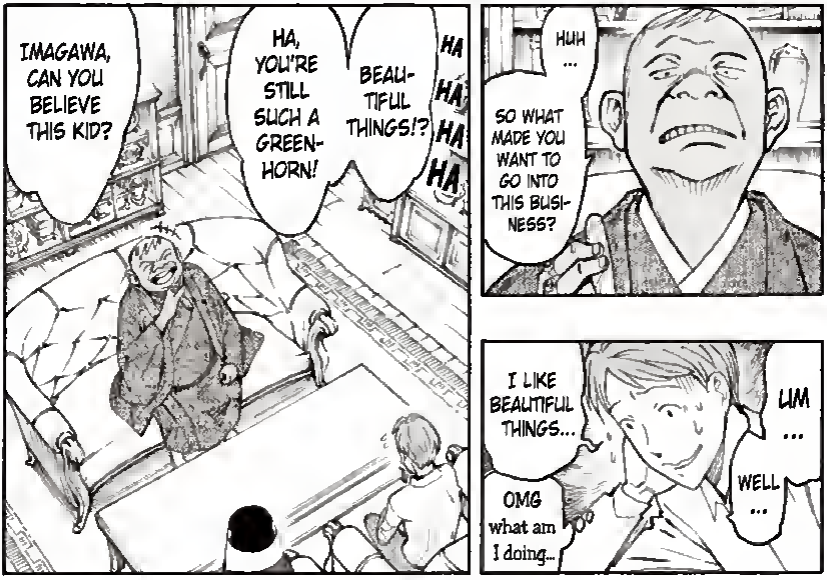

What are we supposed to say to this guy...?

So this is the owner of Ryouundou Antiques... Kumoi Magokichi.

WHAT A PAIN IN THE ASS!!
HA
HA
HA
AFTER A NIGHT OF HARD PARTYING, I NEED MY BEAUTY SLEEP!
UGH, IT'S WAY TOO EARLY IN THE MORNING TO HAVE CUSTOMERS, YOU KNOW!?

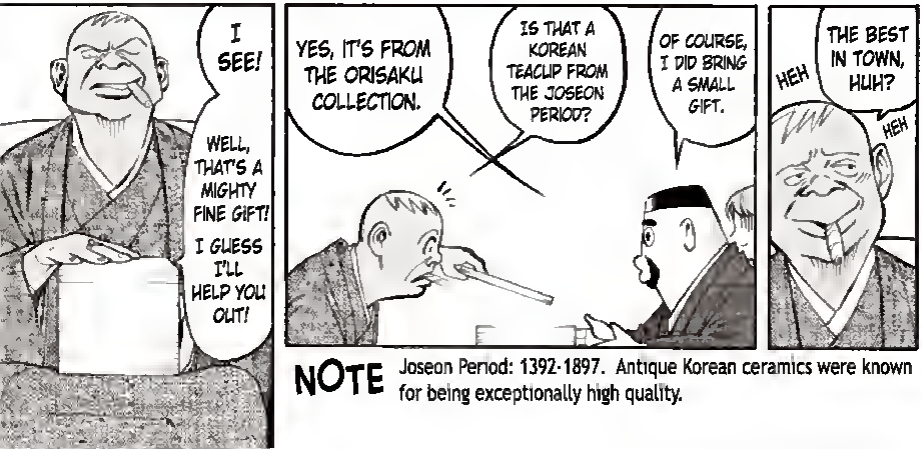
NOTE "Tsubota Kamesaburou" contains the kanji for "vase" and "turtle."
Poor nameless narrator dude gets stuck with the worst aliases...


T-TSU-BOTA!?
ACTU-ALLY,
HIS BACK-GROUND IS IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING, SO HE'S A TOTAL NEW-COMER TO THE ANTIQUES BUSINESS.
IT WAS MY NEW ASSISTANT, TSUBOTA KAMESABUROU, WHO WANTED TO MEET YOU.
SO,
WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?


IMAGAWA, CAN YOU BELIEVE THIS KID?
HA, YOU'RE STILL SUCH A GREEN-HORN!
BEAU-TIFUL THINGS!?
HA HA HA HA
HUH ...
SO WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO GO INTO THIS BUSI-NESS?
I LIKE BEAUTIFUL THINGS...
OMG what am I doing...
UM ...
WELL ...

HUH!?
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT WE WERE HOPING FOR!
ACTU-ALLY, YES!
HA! YOU DON'T EXPECT ME TO GIVE AWAY THE TRICKS OF MY TRADE FOR FREE, DO YOU?
HE WANTS TO LEARN HOW TO APPRAISE ANTIQUES.

I-IMA-GAWA-SAN...
EVEN ONE DAY WITH A MASTER LIKE YOU IS A VALUABLE LEARNING EXPERIENCE!
TSUBOI - I MEAN, TSUBOTA - JUST WANTS TO SPEND ONE DAY WATCHING YOU WORK.
YOUR PRODUCTS ARE THE BEST IN TOWN, AFTER ALL.


I SEE!
WELL, THAT'S A MIGHTY FINE GIFT!
I GUESS I'LL HELP YOU OUT!
YES, IT'S FROM THE ORISAKU COLLECTION.
IS THAT A KOREAN TEACUP FROM THE JOSEON PERIOD?
OF COURSE, I DID BRING A SMALL GIFT.
HEH
THE BEST IN TOWN, HUH?
HEH

NOTE Joseon Period: 1392-1897. Antique Korean ceramics were known for being exceptionally high quality.

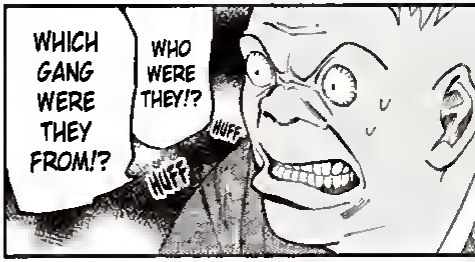
ONE MORE THING...
IMA-GAWA-SAN!
I...
HAVE FUN!
RYOUUNDOU -SAN, DID YOU DO BUSINESS WITH YAMADA YOJIROU-SAN IN 1-CHOME?
Y-YOU KNEW THAT OLD MAN TOO?
OH YES. WE MET A FEW MONTHS AGO.
ANY-WAY...
OH, IT'S NOTHING. THE LATE YAMADA-SAN ONCE MENTIONED YOU, THAT'S ALL.
YAMA-DA?
YEAH... SO WHAT?

ANY-WAY...
YES, IT WAS FILLED WITH POTTERY.
BUT THEN HE STARTED BUYING THINGS ON CREDIT AND NEVER PAID ME BACK...
HE BOUGHT ALL OF THE POTS THAT I COULDN'T SELL!
WHAT A GREAT CUSTOMER!
DID YOU SEE HIS HOUSE?
YEAH, WHAT A CRAZY OLD FART...
EH!?
WAIT, SIT BACK DOWN!
BUT I WAS VISITED YESTERDAY BY SOME YAKUZA WHO SAID THAT THEY WERE BUYING UP ALL OF YOJIROU-SAN'S DEBTS.
He seems worried...
HUH!?
OH NO, THEY JUST WANTED ME TO APPRAISE SOME POTTERY.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!?
THE YAKUZA PAID YOU OFF!?

THE YAKUZA WISH TO RECOUP THEIR LOSSES, SO THEY NEED TO KNOW HOW MUCH THE POTTERY COLLECTION IS WORTH.
HIS HOUSE!?
IT SEEMS THAT EARLIER THIS YEAR, YOJIROU-SAN USED HIS HOUSE AND HIS LAND AS COLLATERAL TO BORROW EVEN MORE MONEY TO BUY POTTERY...

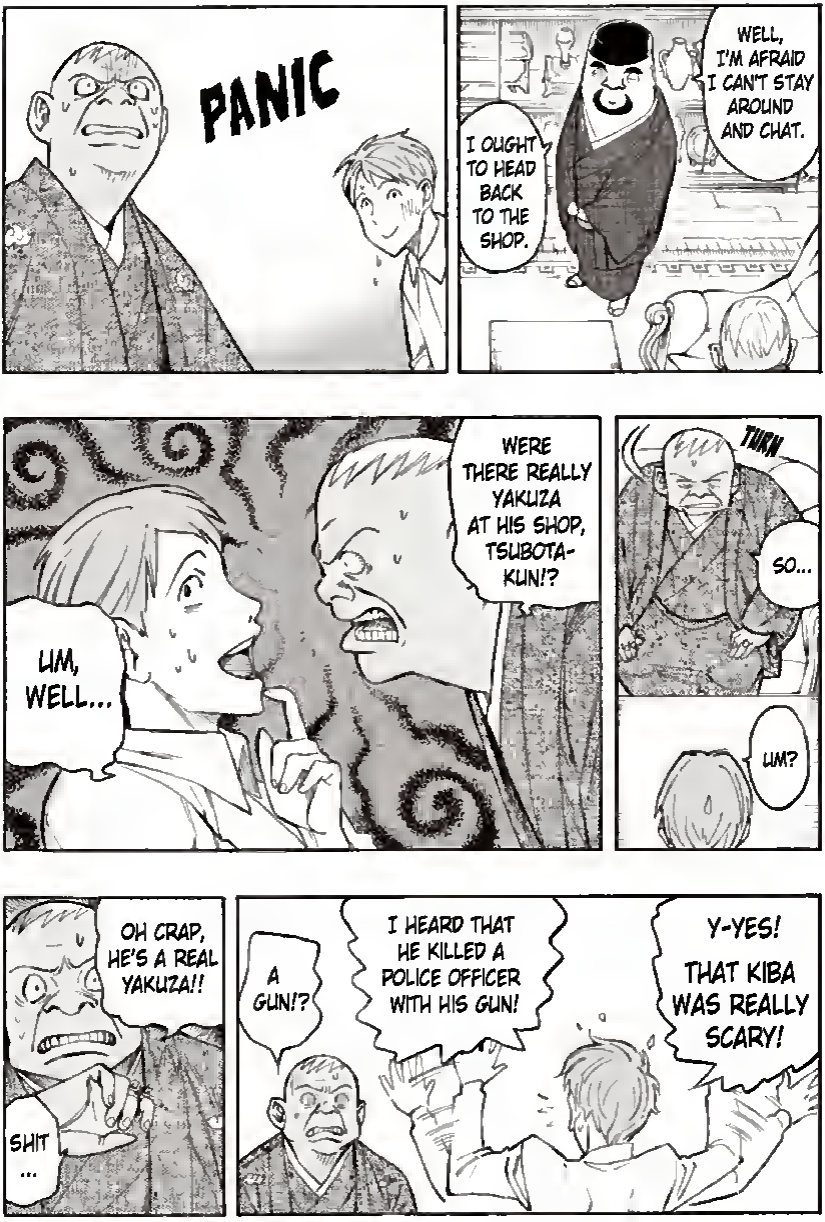
JUST TELL THEM YOU CAN'T DO IT!
I KNOW, BUT...
I'M AFRAID TO REFUSE, THOUGH...
DON'T DO IT! YOU DON'T WANT TO GET MIXED UP WITH THE YAKUZA.
I HAVEN'T AGREED TO DO IT YET...
AND THEY ASKED YOU!?

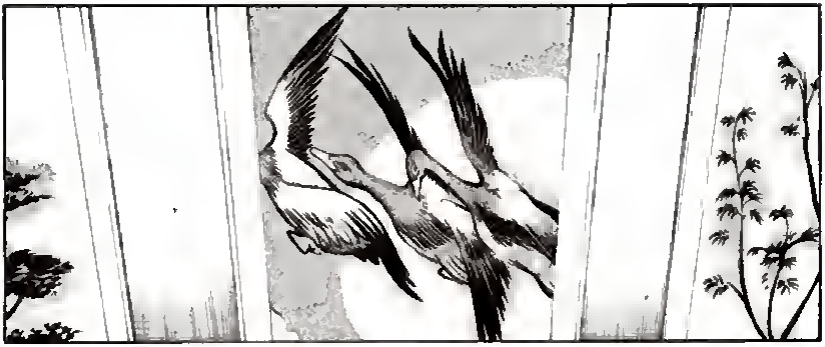
YES, YES. THAT POOR WOMAN... I JUST WANT TO HELP HER HOWEVER I CAN!
YOU MEAN SUE-SAN?
O-OF COURSE NOT! I WAS JUST WORRIED ABOUT THE OLD MAN'S GRANDDAUGHTER... EVEN THOUGH SHE'S NOT EXACTLY THE FRIENDLY TYPE.

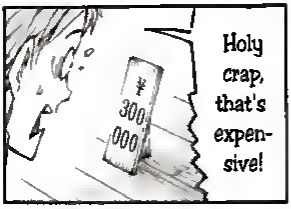

WHICH GANG WERE THEY FROM!?
WHO WERE THEY!?
HUFF
HUFF

EH? WHY DO YOU ASK? YOU'RE NOT INVOLVED WITH THEM, ARE YOU?
STARE

AH...
WELL...
WHICH GANG WAS IT?
SO...
IT WAS THE SAKURADA GANG.
THEIR BOSS IS A MAN CALLED KIBA.
OH, HE'S MERCILESS!
HE CAME BACK FROM THE WAR AND STARTED A GANG...
THEY'RE REAL TOUGH GUYS, LIKE AMERICAN GANGSTERS!
THEY'RE THE WORST!
.....
COUGH
NEVER HEARD OF HIM.
NO ...
DO YOU KNOW HIM?
COUGH
COUGH
SAKU-RADA...
I SEE..


PANIC
I OUGHT TO HEAD BACK TO THE SHOP.
WELL, I'M AFRAID I CAN'T STAY AROUND AND CHAT.
WERE THERE REALLY YAKUZA AT HIS SHOP, TSUBOTA-KUN!?
UM, WELL...
TUKK
SO...
UM?
OH CRAP, HE'S A REAL YAKUZA!!
SHIT ...
A GUN!?
I HEARD THAT HE KILLED A POLICE OFFICER WITH HIS GUN!
Y-YES! THAT KIBA WAS REALLY SCARY!

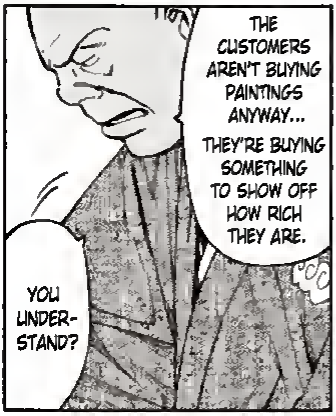


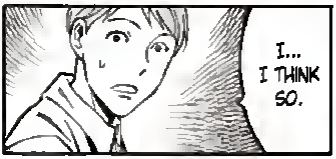


TCH, THAT IMAGAWA DOESN'T EVEN SELL PAINTINGS AT HIS SHOP, DOES HE? AMATEUR.
WE SPECIALIZE IN TEA CEREMONY SUPPLIES, SO NATURALLY, WE SELL PAINTINGS.

NOTE Tea ceremony is all about showing off one's wealth and refinement in a classy, understated way. Typically, the host will display a painting or calligraphy scroll in the tokonoma of their tea room, along with an elegant flower arrangement.

NOTE Ukiyoe ("floating world") artwork usually depicts geisha, kabuki actors, high-class prostitutes and other denizens of Tokyo's lavish Edo-period pleasure districts. Woodblock prints were cheap, popular and frequently pornographic, so famous artists cranked them out by the thousands.





SO WE ANTIQUES DEALERS KEEP PRICES HIGH AND DON'T TRY TO UNDERCUT EACH OTHER.
HIGH PRICES BENEFIT ALL OF US.
BECAUSE THERE ARE IDIOTS WHO ARE WILLING TO BUY THEM.
SERIOUS COLLECTORS WILL PAY ANY PRICE.

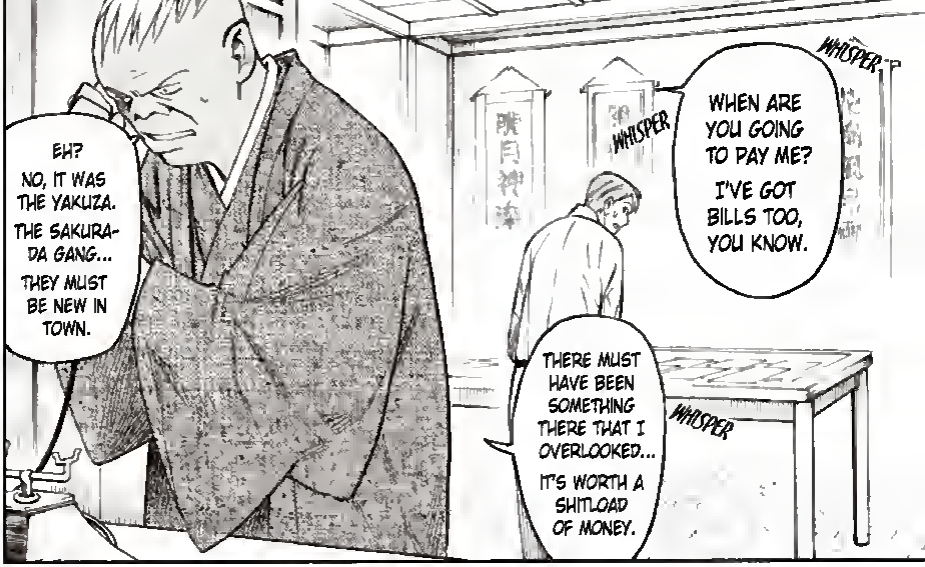
THEY'RE JUST CHEAPLY MADE WOODBLOCK PRINTS, SO THEY USED TO BE WORTH ALMOST NOTHING.
BUT DURING THE MEIJI ERA, COLLECTORS IN ENGLAND STARTED PAYING TONS OF MONEY FOR JAPANESE ART,
SO UKIYOE BECAME VALUABLE.
HERE, LOOK AT THESE UKIYOE PRINTS.

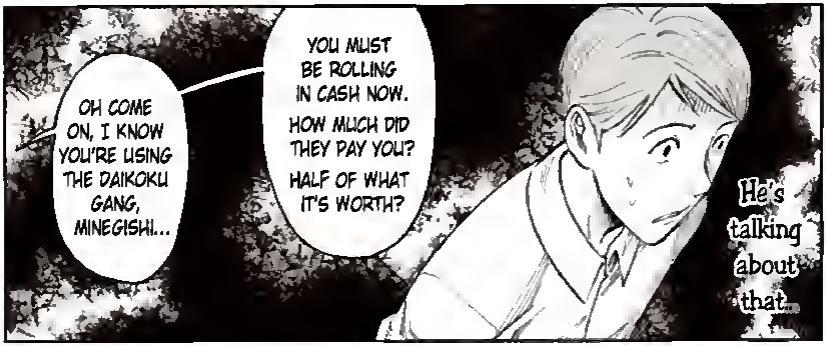
SURPRISED? THERE ARE WAYS OF MAKING BRAND NEW ART LOOK "ANTIQUE."
HA HA HA
EH!?
ACTUALLY, HALF OF THOSE ARE FAKES THAT WERE MADE RECENTLY.
Oh...
WOW ...

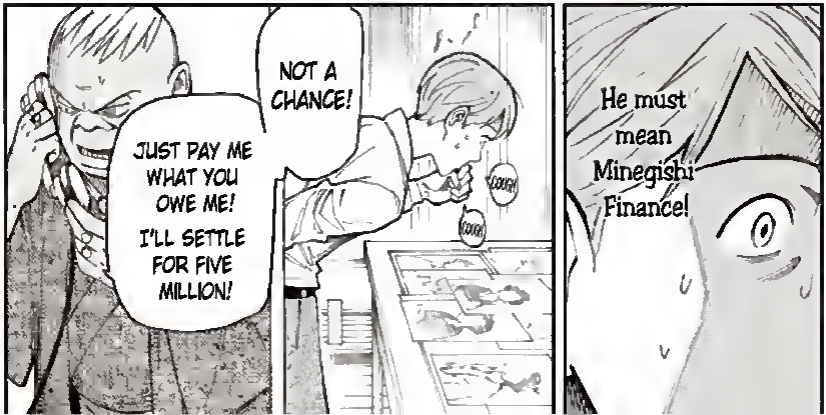
NOTE Woodblock prints are made using a series of carefully carved and painted wooden stamps.

IT'S HARD TO TELL THE OLD FROM THE NEW AND THE REAL FROM THE FAKE.
SOMETIMES THEY BOUGHT OLD WOODBLOCKS AND USED THEM TO MAKE NEW PRINTS, AND SOMETIMES THEY JUST CARVED NEW BLOCKS.
EVEN BACK DURING THE MEIJI ERA BOOM IN UKIYOE COLLECTING, A LOT OF FAKES WERE MADE.

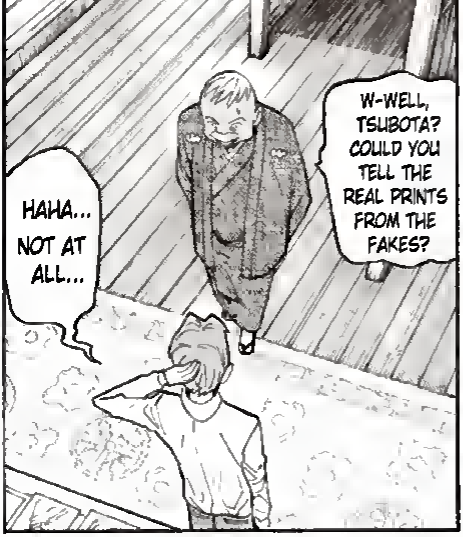
DIAL
SO ENTER-TAIN YOUR-SELF FOR A MINUTE.
BUT EVERYBODY IN THE ANTIQUES BUSINESS PRETENDS THAT THEY'RE ALL THE REAL DEAL.
ANYWAY, I'VE GOT TO MAKE A PHONE CALL.
It's the same with celadon pottery...
HEY, IT'S ME.

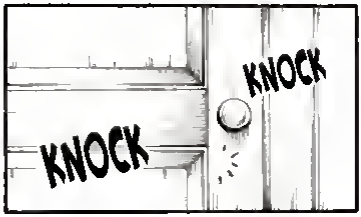

EH?
NO, IT WAS THE YAKUZA.
THE SAKURA-DA GANG...
THEY MUST BE NEW IN TOWN.
WHISPER
WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO PAY ME?
I'VE GOT BILLS TOO, YOU KNOW.
WHISPER
THERE MUST HAVE BEEN SOMETHING THERE THAT I OVERLOOKED...
IT'S WORTH A SHITLOAD OF MONEY.
WHISPER

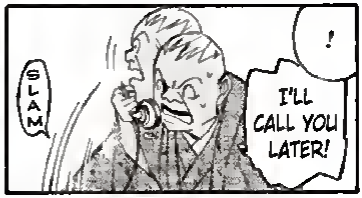

OH COME ON, I KNOW YOU'RE USING THE DAIKOKU GANG, MINEGISHI...
YOU MUST BE ROLLING IN CASH NOW.
HOW MUCH DID THEY PAY YOU?
HALF OF WHAT IT'S WORTH?
He's talking about that.

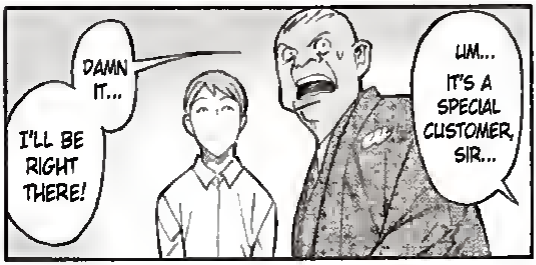

NOT A CHANCE!
JUST PAY ME WHAT YOU OWE ME!
I'LL SETTLE FOR FIVE MILLION!
He must mean Minegishi Finance!

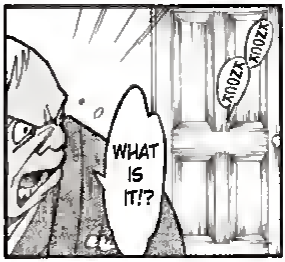
!?
SHOCK
EH!?
I DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE NOT MAKING ANY PROFIT!
WE HAD AN AGREE-MENT!
CRAP...
WHAT!?
Whoa, the price went from ten million to five million?
And now Chuuzenji-san is going back to the Pottery House...
"Yamimasa" is Kihara Shouzou's criminal alias...
That means he's working with the Daikoku Gang...
WHISPER
WHISPER
AN EXORCIST? WHAT THE HELL FOR!?
HAVE SOMEBODY FROM DAIKOKU DEAL WITH IT!
EH? YAMIMASA IS GOING TO BE AT THE EXORCISM TOO? WHAT THE...

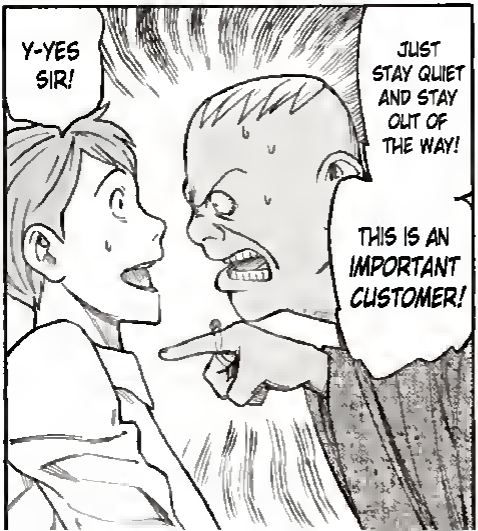

W-WELL, TSUBOTA? COULD YOU TELL THE REAL PRINTS FROM THE FAKES?
HAHA... NOT AT ALL...


KNOCK
KNOCK

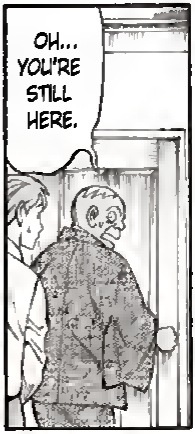

!
I'LL CALL YOU LATER!
SLAM

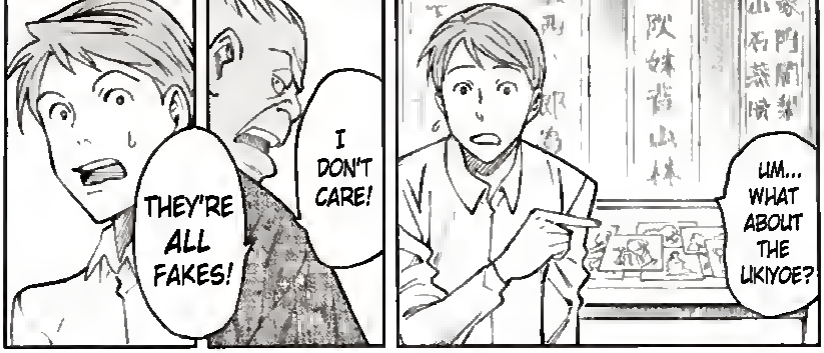

DAMN IT...
I'LL BE RIGHT THERE!
UM... IT'S A SPECIAL CUSTOMER, SIR...

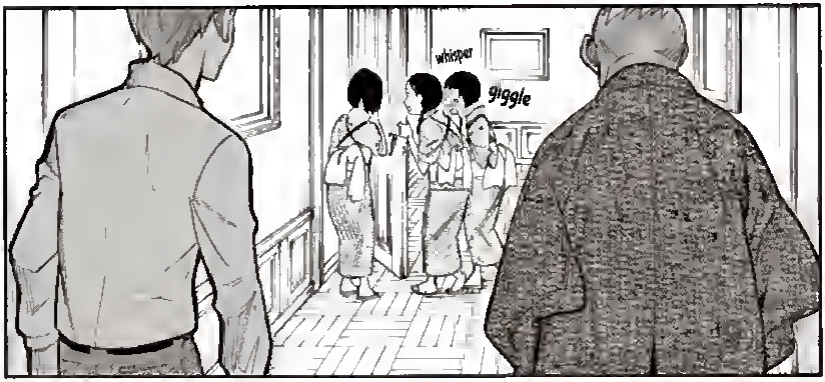

KNOCK
KNOCK
WHAT IS IT!?

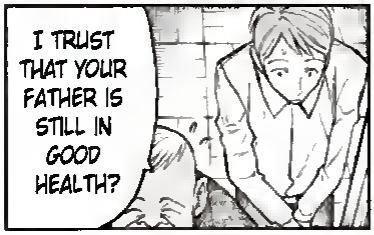

Y-YES SIR!
JUST STAY QUIET AND STAY OUT OF THE WAY!
THIS IS AN IMPORTANT CUSTOMER!

OF ALL THE INCONVENIENT TIMES!


OH... YOU'RE STILL HERE.


I DON'T CARE!
THEY'RE ALL FAKES!
UM... WHAT ABOUT THE UKIYOE?


whisper
giggle

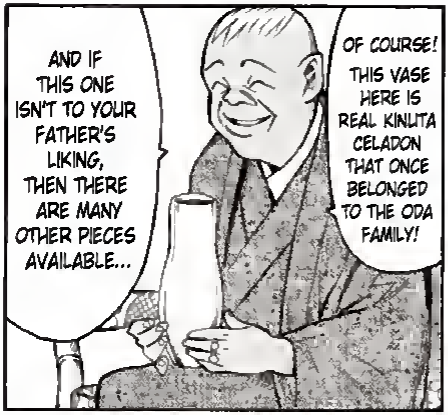

I TRUST THAT YOUR FATHER IS STILL IN GOOD HEALTH?

Oh, you know, idiots never catch colds.

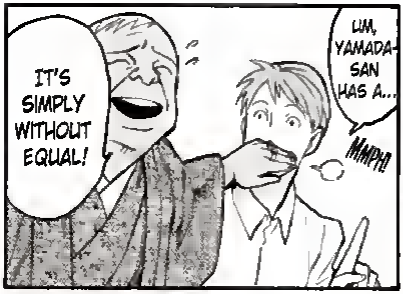
?
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY TO HAVE KEPT YOU WAITING, SIR...

SHOVE
SHH !!
EH!? E-ENO...
YOU KNOW, IF YOUR FEMALE EMPLOYEES ARE GOING TO LURK OUTSIDE THE DOOR AND SQUEAL OVER ME, YOU MIGHT AS WELL INVITE THEM IN SO WE CAN GET NICE AND COZY.
TCh!
OTHERWISE, TELL THEM TO CALM DOWN!
Ehehe_ Rich idiot_
What is he doing here!?
E-Enokizu-san!?

I CAME HERE TO SHOP,
SO SELL ME SOME-THING.

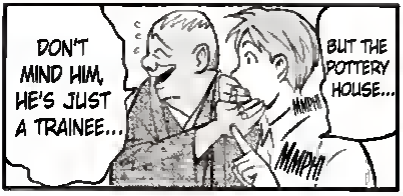

OF COURSE! THIS VASE HERE IS REAL KINUTA CELADON THAT ONCE BELONGED TO THE ODA FAMILY!
AND IF THIS ONE ISN'T TO YOUR FATHER'S LIKING, THEN THERE ARE MANY OTHER PIECES AVAILABLE...

I DON'T WANT THAT.
EH?


UM, YAMADA-SAN HAS A...
MMPH
IT'S SIMPLY WITHOUT EQUAL!

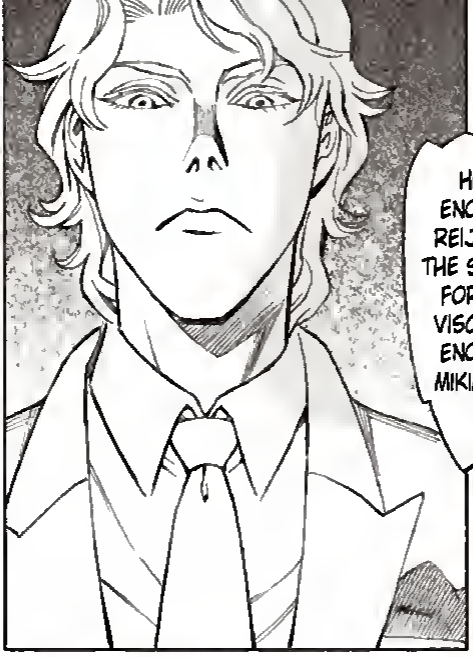
AH...
BUT YOU WON'T FIND A "KAME" STYLE VASE LIKE THIS ANYWHERE ELSE...

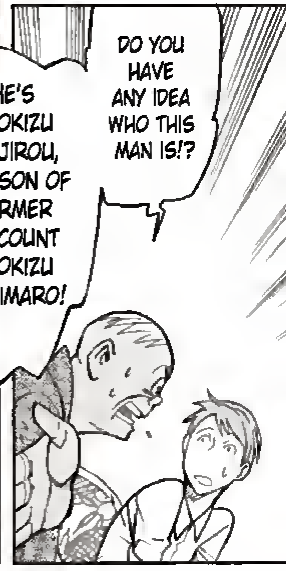
MY FATHER IS LOOKING FOR A "KAME," AND THATS A "TSUBO."


BUT THE POTTERY HOUSE...
MMPH
MMPH
DON'T MIND HIM, HE'S JUST A TRAINEE...

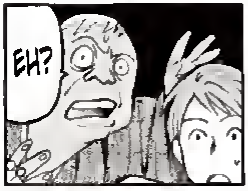
EH?
BUT YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO HAS A "KAME," DON'T YOU?
CAN YOU GET IT FOR ME?
PLEASE, SIR, DON'T BE UNREA-SONABLE!
THAT'S WHY I GOT FORCED INTO COMING HERE.
MY FATHER IS LOOKING FOR SOME-THING VERY SPECIFIC, AND HE WON'T STOP WHINING ABOUT IT.
WHEN ENOKIZU MIKIMARO WANTS SOMETHING, HE GETS IT.
BUT IT'S NOT A...
A FAKE?
I'VE BEEN LOOKING EVERYWHERE FOR KINUTA CELADON, BUT IT'S ALL FAKE GARBAGE!
I TOLD YOU TO BE QUIET, TSUBOTA!
I'M TRYING TO DO MY JOB!
WHAT WOULD YOU KNOW ANYWAY!?
BUT IT'S A FAKE!
I MEAN... THAT IS...
WELL, IT'S TRUE THAT THERE'S SOMEONE ELSE WHO HAS A KINUTA CELADON VASE, AND THEORETICALLY, I COULD GET IT FOR YOU...

OH ...
Well, I already knew...



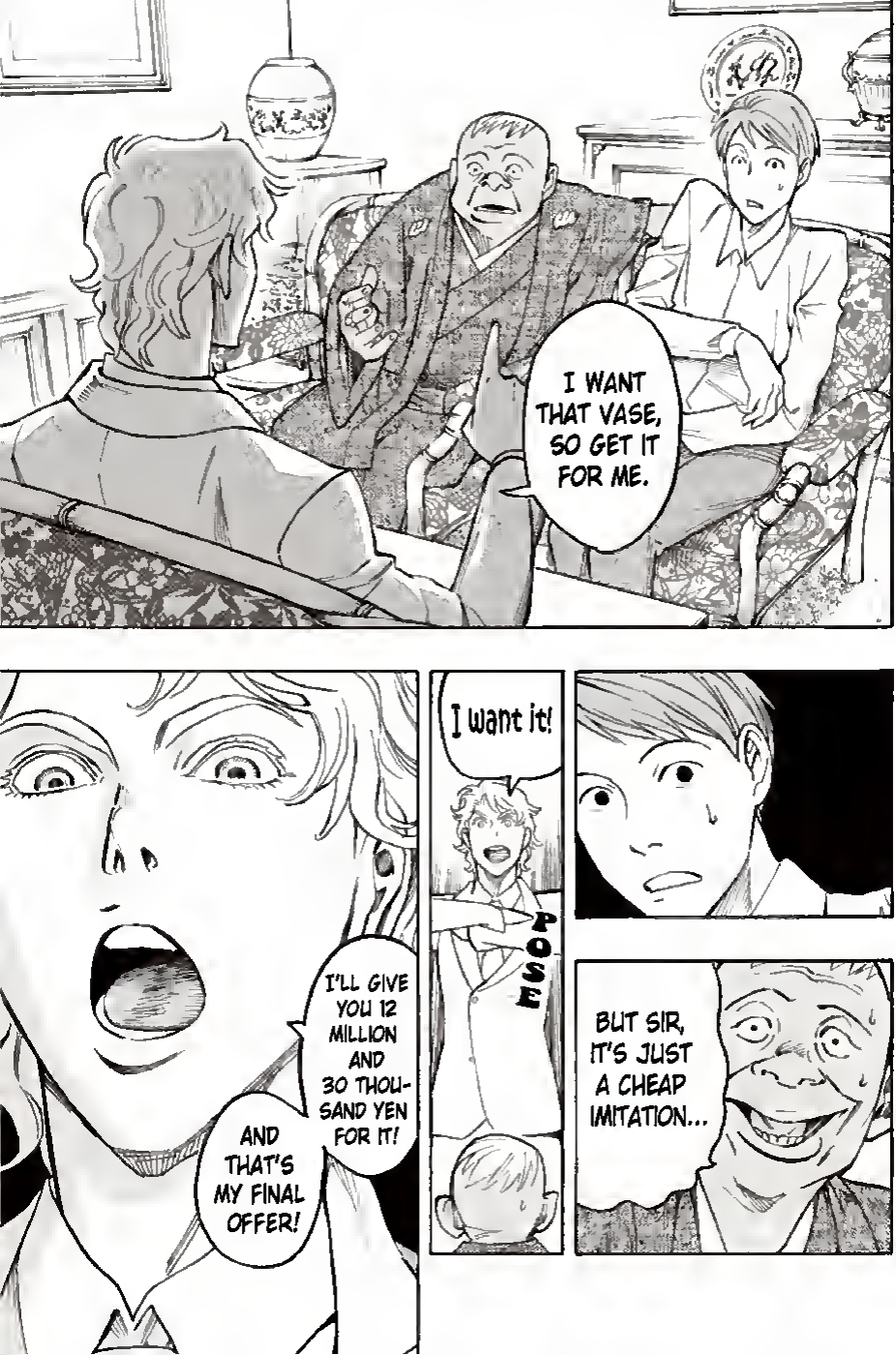

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHO THIS MAN IS!?
HE'S ENOKIZU REIJIROU, THE SON OF FORMER VISCOUNT ENOKIZU MIKIMARO!

I'VE DECIDED.


EH?

THEY'RE ALL COUNTERFIETS!
I BUY EVERYTHING FROM JUNK SHOPS AND JACK UP THE PRICE!
STARE...

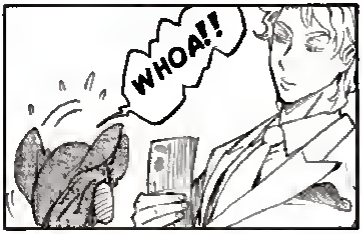
IF I HAD REAL KINUTA CELADON, HE'S THE KIND OF RICH IDIOT THAT WOULD BUY IT!
BUT YOU SAID YOU HAD SEVERAL PIECES AVAIL-ABLE...


I WANT THAT VASE, SO GET IT FOR ME.
I want it!
POSE
BUT SIR, IT'S JUST A CHEAP IMITATION...
I'LL GIVE YOU 12 MILLION AND 30 THOUSAND YEN FOR IT!
AND THAT'S MY FINAL OFFER!

AH?
WELL, THEN...
O-OF COURSE, I'M HAPPY TO DO BUSINESS WITH YOU!
BUT IT MAY TAKE SOME TIME...

12 MILLION ...!?

UNDER-STOOD, SIR!


WHOA!!

WA HA HA HA
THEN I'LL PAY CASH!
BUT FOR EVERY HOUR IT TAKES TO GET IT, I'M KNOCKING 10,000 OFF THE PRICE!

YES SIR!
G-GET THE CAR READY!!
If you can't deliver the goods, then the deal is off.
Sorry!
I'll won't pay until I get it.
Yup!
AH... ENOKIZU-SAMA, I'M ON MY WAY TO FIND THAT VASE...
ARE YOU PLANNING TO COME TOO?

I see...
So the final stage is going to be...
The Pottery House...